



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MIDLAND MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL DRUG CASE

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 28-year-old Pete Navarrette Chavez was sentenced to five years in federal prison for conspiring to possess with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Robert Junell ordered Chavez to be placed under supervised release for a period of eight years after completing his prison term.

In June, 2003, Chavez and several others were charged in an indictment which alleged that they conspired to distribute "crack" cocaine and cocaine near numerous parks and schools in Midland from 2001 to 2003. Chavez's co-defendants— 22-year-old Robert Navarrette Chavez, 27-year-old Daniel Gutierrez Carrasco, 23-year-old Sammy Gutierrez Carrasco, 24-year-old Richard Junior Hyson, 22-year-old Mark Anthony Garza, 26-year-old David Edward Gonzales and 23-year-old Manuel Alaniz Oropeza —were also charged in the indictment and convicted.

On April 7, 2003, officers from the Midland Police Department executed a search warrant at Pete Chavez' residence. They discovered 215 grams of cocaine in his bedroom, and Chavez later confessed to police officers that he had been storing cocaine for his brother and co-defendant, Robert Navarrette Chavez, on prior occasions. The cocaine seizure was one of several made by the Midland Police Department as part with the investigation into the trafficking organization. Evidence at Chavez's trial last November revealed that - in addition to the cocaine trafficking - some members of the conspiracy distributed "crack" cocaine in Midland on a daily basis for approximately one year, and the total amount of "crack" distributed exceeded 12 kilograms.

On January 14, 2004, Sammy Carrasco was sentenced to 280 months imprisonment; his brother Daniel Carrasco, to 100 months imprisonment; and Manuel Oropeza, to 92 months imprisonment. On October 14, 2003, Gonzalez was sentenced to 52 months imprisonment. On November 5, 2003, Garza was sentenced to two years imprisonment. Robert Navarrette Chavez and Richard Junior Hyson—who face up to life in federal prison—are scheduled to be sentenced in February.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Midland Police Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeff Parras.

Finally, at the time of sentencing, Sammy Carrasco and Daniel Carrasco also received a 100-month and 21-month federal prison sentence, respectively, for their guilty pleas to a Federal indictment filed in Pecos, Texas, charging a marijuana trafficking conspiracy. Assistant United States Attorney Jay Miller prosecuted the Pecos case which was investigated by U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Presidio, Texas.

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